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JCSM-84-60

4 MAR 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

NO JCS OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION; DATE 4 DEC 1991
DO NOT DECLASSIFY UNTIL CONCURRENCE IS RECEIVED
BY: DEPT OF STATE

Subject: Resumption of High Altitude Flights in the Berlin Corridor (S)

References:
a. Embassy Bonn Message to Secretary of State No. 1580, dated 18 February 1960
b. Buenos Aires Message to Secretary of State No. SECTO 11, dated 26 February 1960
c. Attachment to Memorandum to Secretary of Defense from JCS, dated 24 February 1960

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have noted the tripartite agreement with our Allies (reference a) and the decision (reference b) on this subject and are prepared to resume high altitude flights into Berlin.

2. In this connection, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that this is primarily a cold war tactic, under the present circumstances, and that the military requirements for these flights are secondary.

3. If the flights are resumed, the military contingencies as outlined in the proposed warning message to USCINCEUR (reference c) might result. In the event an aircraft is damaged or destroyed by Soviet or GDR aircraft or ground fire, a logical follow-on would be to dispatch a subsequent aircraft at altitude to Berlin with fighter escort.

4. It is recommended that you approve the dispatch of the warning message to USCINCEUR as outlined in reference c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are prepared to issue appropriate execution orders to initiate these flights when you so direct.

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For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

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